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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

HARDINGE, NOT GREY

SIR,—In your editorial (August issue) entitled “Footnotes to Austrian History,” in which you allude briefly to certain incidents related in a forthcoming publication by me, may I be allowed to correct a slight clerical error on page 178, reading: “The King and Queen and *Foreign Secretary* were already sailing.” . . . It was not the Foreign Secretary, then Sir Edward Grey, who accompanied the British King and Queen: the official referred to in my text was the Permanent Under Secretary for Foreign Affairs, Sir Charles Hardinge (later Baron Hardinge of Penshurst, and Viceroy of India), then new successor to Sir Thomas Sanderson, who had after many years in that position just retired as Lord Sanderson. It is not without bearing upon the incident to recall that Sir Charles Hardinge had but lately come from Petrograd, Russia, where he was British Ambassador during the period when Count Aehrenthal, his very intimate personal friend, was Austro-Hungarian Ambassador at the same Imperial Court.

May I be also permitted to say in reference to Mr. V. R. Savich, a very able and distinguished Serb, that he was my associate in regard only to my Canal project, in which he rendered valuable and patriotic assistance. Mr. Savich, who had no other connection whatever with my affairs, only arrived in London from Moscow six or seven weeks subsequent to the main occurrence dealt with by your editorial. In the light of present events, should some details appear interesting concerning the Austrian intrigue leading up to the royal assassinations at Belgrade in 1903, they can be found in an article by myself in the magazine section of the *New York Sun*, Sunday, August 2, 1914.

I desire to add that the passages and material in your editorial were taken from two of my MSS. shortly to be published—one entitled “Contributions to the History of the Origins of the Present War” and the other “The Danube-Aegean Sea Canal, Its Story and Engineering Reports.” The first MSS. largely comprises original documents, authentic copies of official documents in my possession, and letters addressed to me or to third persons but sent to me by their recipients—including correspondence with Berlin in 1907, mentioned in your editorial. The accompanying text serves only to explain the circumstances occasioning the appended documents, letters, etc. The second MSS. consists of the engineering reports on the Canal project and an introduction telling the story of its inception, purpose, political and economical, and of an appendix containing correspondence, contracts, etc. Among these is a letter dated 1904, prior to the advent of the Liberal Government in England,

from a British banking group containing a conditional promise of underwriting up to some five million pounds sterling in support of a financial aspect of my plan of economical and agrarian reform and political relief for the populations of what was then European Turkey, of which territory Serb Macedonia, including the Vardar River valley and Preshevo watershed were features essential to my Danube-Aegean Canal project. That project in itself was designed to liberate Serb economic interests from Austria-Hungary and fix the trend of Serb economic policy southward (its only sound hope), looking toward ultimate Serb control of the ancient Serb region adjoining the Vardar River valley on the east, the control and possession of which by Serbia I considered—and this war has tragically justified that belief—to be the *sine qua non* of the existence of an independent Serb State. Another of these communications from the head of a German banking group, addressed not to me but to an English friend of mine, a statesman of renown, interested in my political ideas for the Near East, expresses willingness to underwrite the Turkish part of my project up to ten million pounds sterling, and contains also some allusions to the Persian oil fields and the Bagdad railway in the negotiations between German and British interests, in which my friend was then concerned.

The passages from my MSS. used in your review were chosen by me and I consented to their immediate publication, as it was believed the object-lesson of actual occurrence illustrating methods of Austrian procedure would be useful toward counteracting the present widespread defeatist attempts of the enemy, especially certain aspects of that propaganda, evidently heavily financed, which by the most insidious and plausible means are being projected into the public mind and obtaining hold on some persons hitherto loyal to a peace through victory, not only in this country, but in Great Britain, France, Italy, Switzerland, and at the Balkan front. A not unimportant auxiliary of that campaign is the camouflage action in Austria-Hungary in the formation of the so-called "People's Councils" movement—under the presidency and guidance of high dignitaries and devoted officials of the Hapsburg State!—and an information service worked through neutral countries, distributing news made at the Austro-Hungarian Foreign Office in Vienna.

LAZAROVICH-HREBELIANOVICH.

THE BIBLE AND PROHIBITION

SIR,—Your contributor, the Reverend John C. McKim, lays undue emphasis on the endeavors of the radical prohibitionists to find arguments for their cause in the Bible, particularly in the New Testament. I have read many arguments for and against prohibition, and have noted an increasing tendency to avoid those drawn from these sources. Most of the radical prohibitionists would probably dispose of the incident said to have occurred in Cana as John B. Gough once disposed of it. On a certain occasion when he was delivering a temperance lecture a man in the audience called out: "What about Christ turning water into wine?" Gough replied: "I have no objections to wine that is made of water." This was a silencer, but it was no answer. Some years ago a prominent clergyman said in my hearing: "If I went into a saloon and took a drink the act in itself would not be wrong; but my example would be